DOCUMENT RESUME

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ABSTRACT

To determine the reasons for the declining enrollment of high school seniors at William Rainey Harper College, a survey was made of a random sample of 501 high school graduates, equally split between 1971 and 1972 graduates. Telephone calls elicited information on 447 students. The data collected showed that while lower percentages of the high school graduates were coming to Harper, higher percentages were enrolled in four-year colleges and proprietary schools. Higher percentages were also employed full-time. The data are provided in tables. An appendix is the survey instrument. (DB)

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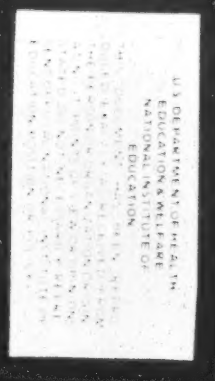

In the past few years surveys of high school senior expectations and advance registration information has indicated increasing percentages of high school graduates within the district could be expected to enroll at Harper. However, in reality the percentage of high school graduates within the district who have actually enrolled at Harper has decreased in this time period. In order to account for this discrepancy between preliminary prediction information and actual results, a survey was made on a random sample of high school graduates in districts 211 and 214. A sample of 501 students were obtained equally split between 1971 and 1972 graduates. Through telephone calls information was obtained on 447 students for a response rate of 89.2 percent. Barrington High School does their own follow-up survey of its graduates each year and some of their results are incorporated in this report.

The results of the study indicated that at most only 16 percent of the students were aware of changing their mind during their senior year or during the following summer with regards to their plans for the fall. In addition, about as many students reported changing their mind at the last minute in order to attend Harper as decided at the last minute not to attend Harper. Thus survey results concerning decision changes could not account for declining percentages of high school students attending Harper. It could be a large number of students have not made specific plans during their senior year. When surveyed during this year or at the time of graduation they guess but have made no commitment. When they do made a decision in the fall, they would probably not be aware of having changed their mind.

The best explanation for the discrepancy seems to lie in the comparison of 1971 and 1972 data concerning what students did the fall after their graduation. Table I shows that while a lower percentage of graduates were coming to Harper, higher percentages were enrolled in four year colleges and proprietary schools. Moreover, higher percentages were employed full-time. These trends seemed to indicate there were a number of reasons for declining percentages of high school graduates coming to Harper. Four year schools could have lowered their admission requirements, some students couldn't get the career program they wanted and so went to technical institutes or found a job and the economy improved providing more jobs and allowing more students to attend a four year college.

Barrington High School was the one exception as seen in Table II as the percentage of graduates coming to Harper increased from 1971 to 1972. The Office of Planning and Research is greatly indebted to high school districts 211, 214 and 224 for their cooperation in this project.

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN HARPER DISTRICT

Districts 211 and 214 Only

TABLE I

	1971		1972	
Number	204		243	
Status-Fall After Graduation	Percent	Percent Full-time	Percent	Percent Full-time
Harper	27.9	75.5	23.2	75.0
Four year college	31.9	100.0	35.9	94.0
Other college	.5	100.0	3.0	100.0
Employed	31.4	100.0	33.3	96.6
Armed services	2.9	-	3.0	-
Unemployed	2.0	-	.8	-
Other	3.4	-	.8	-
	100.0		100.0	
Goal Changing During Final Year				
No change	85.0		84.0	
Changed during senior year	4.7		4.1	
Changed during summer after graduation	3.1		7.8	
Unsure	7.2		4.1	
	100.0		100.0	
Analysis of Decisions to Come to Harper	Numbers	Reasons for Change	Numbers	Reasons for Change
Come to Harper after changing their mind in senior year	0		7	
Come to Harper after originally planning to come to Harper	57		48	
Did not come to Harper but originally planned to	4	Job opportunities, accepted by four year college & finances	6	Couldn't get in program of choice job opportunity, finances

TABLE II

	1971			1972		
Number	60	144	571	76	167	632
Percent of Students Status-Fall After Graduation	District 211	District 214	District* 224	District 211	District 214	District* 224
Harper	35.0	25.0	15.4	30.3	19.9	16.9
Four year college	23.3	35.4	55.5	28.9	39.1	
Other colleges or schools	0	.7	4.1	2.6	3.1	
Employed	28.4	32.6	12.8	35.6	32.3	
Armed Services	5.0	2.1	1.9	1.3	3.7	
Unemployed	5.0	.7	.5	0	1.3	
Other	3.3	3.5	9.8	1.3	.6	
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

*Data was obtained from a follow-up study conducted by Barrington High School of its graduates. 1972 data represents a preliminary estimate.

TABLE III

Four Year Colleges Attended

University of Illinois - 16
Southern Illinois University - 9
Northern Illinois - 7
Illinois State - 4
Wesley - 3
Tulsa - 3
Drake - 3
Bradley - 3
Marquette - 2
Loyola - 2
DePaul - 2
Western - 2
University of Vermont
Carthage
Mississippi
Indiana State
Trinity Texas
Oklahoma
University of Wisconsin
Tallahassee, Florida
Blackburn
Rippen
Odessa, Texas
Augustana
DeKalb
Luther
University of Wyoming
Washington State
Northwestern
Quincy
Columbia
Eastern
Triton

TABLE IV

Other Colleges Attended

Greer Technology School
Lutheran General Hospital
Apprentice tool die maker
Electronic
Endicott Junior College
Denver Auto College

APPENDIX

NAME _____ Phone No. _____

ADDRESS _____

PARENT'S NAME _____

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY
HARPER COLLEGE DISTRICT

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATED FROM _____

YEAR GRADUATED _____

1. Where were you the fall after graduation from high school?

_____	A. Harper College	_____ P-T	_____ F-T		
_____	B. Four year college	_____ P-T	_____ F-T	_____	College
_____	C. Other college or	_____ P-T	_____ F-T	_____	College
	educational institution	_____ P-T	_____ F-T	_____	Institution
_____	D. Working, not in college	_____ P-T	_____ F-T		
_____	E. Armed services				
_____	F. Unemployed				
_____	G. Other (specify) _____				

2. During your senior year in high school or the summer after, was this what you planned to do or did you change your mind?

_____ A. This is what I planned to do all during my senior year.
_____ B. I changed my mind during my senior year.
_____ C. I changed my mind during the summer.
_____ D. Unsure

3. If you changed your mind, what had you planned to do at this time?

_____	A. Harper College	_____ P-T	_____ F-T		
_____	B. Four year college	_____ P-T	_____ F-T	_____	College
_____	C. Other college or	_____ P-T	_____ F-T	_____	College
	educational institution	_____ P-T	_____ F-T	_____	College
_____	D. Working, not in college	_____ P-T	_____ F-T	_____	College
_____	E. Armed services				
_____	F. Unemployed				
_____	G. Other (specify) _____				

4. If you were planning to come to Harper, why did you change your mind?

_____ A. I was unexpectedly accepted by a four year institution.
_____ B. I had an unusually good job opportunity.
_____ C. I couldn't get into the program of my choice.
_____ D. Other (specify) _____

5. If you are part-time at Harper but were planning to come to Harper full-time, why did you change your mind?

_____ A. I had an unusually good job opportunity.
_____ B. Couldn't afford to go full-time.
_____ C. Couldn't get into the program of my choice at Harper.
_____ D. Other (specify) _____

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